

The Hiltons At Home

by Sue Brown

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KEEPING THE KNOLL running smoothly is only part of the responsibilities to which the wife of Iowa State's president falls heir, but since her arrival in July it has been a very important and time-consuming job for Mrs. James Hilton. Mrs. Hilton is a native Iowan, the former Lois Baker of Nevada, and is a Home Economics graduate from Iowa State.

Interested in Art

Always interested in art and architecture — particularly contemporary architecture — Mrs. Hilton confesses that she loves planning the repair and re-decoration of her new home. She's experienced in that work, for the Hiltons recently built a home of their own in North Carolina.

A typical day usually finds her interrupted several times by workmen, and she carries on her business to the accompaniment of their hammers and spades. When the Hiltons first moved into the Knoll, things were still in such a state of repair that they had only one room downstairs in which to sit and entertain callers.

But redoing her new home isn't the only job on Mrs. Hilton's schedule. There are always acknowledgements and thank-you's; and, of course, all their North Carolina friends are interested in hearing about Ames. This is all in addition to the regular family mail.

The Hilton's family includes two married daughters, Elinor and Helen, and a son, Jim, who is a college senior. The president's wife had a special sparkle in her eye when she proudly admitted that she is a grandmother.

Being a president's wife is nearly a full-time job, so Mrs. Hilton no longer has much time to experiment in the kitchen; although cooking, particularly bread-making, used to be one of her favorite pastimes.

Enjoys Club Work

However, she does manage to squeeze some time from her schedule for club work. She was president of the Home Economics Graduate Club in Raleigh and the Raleigh Literary Society. A member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Mrs. Hilton was also prominent in church affairs and the Raleigh Women's Club, of which she was first vice-president when she left North Carolina.

Although she has been in Ames only a short time, Mrs. Hilton has already shown that she is a competent manager of the Knoll and a gracious and charming person.



President and Mrs. Hilton

WITH A TROWEL in one hand and pruning shears in the other, Iowa State's new president, James Hilton, could be completely happy. Although spare time is an elusive commodity on the schedule of this busy executive, President Hilton names gardening and working around the house as his favorite spare time activities.

Roses and azaleas rate high among his favorite flowers, but snapdragons, petunias and other annuals also have a prominent place in his garden. As handy with a paint brush or a bit of steel wool as he is with a trowel, the president spent some of his spare moments in North Carolina refinishing furniture.

Fishing also rates tops on his list of extra-curricular activities and he especially enjoys angling in the little coves on the Carolina coast. In the sporting world President Hilton used to hold his own with a baseball bat in small league competition and now enjoys watching both baseball and football.

Recollections of ISC

Of course the major part of his time is spent in the president's office in the northeast corner of Beardshear's second floor. He reminisced about his first glimpse of Iowa State: "I arrived with another student from North Carolina and walked up the hill by the 'Y.' Just outside Beardshear, which was then known as Old Main, we met two other fellows who stopped and talked with us. Everyone was very friendly. When I came I never thought I'd stay in Iowa, but after I'd been here awhile, I never thought I'd leave."

President Hilton graduated from Iowa State in animal husbandry and taught in that department after his graduation. Before going to Purdue in 1927 he was a county agent in Greene County, having previously served as assistant county agent in Jefferson County and as assistant 4-H Club leader at Iowa State. He left Purdue in 1945 to go to North Carolina State and since 1948 has been Dean of Agriculture there.

Hilton's friendly manner has always earned the respect and affection of his students, as is evidenced by the yearbook dedication to him at North Carolina State: ". . . he is so humble and down to earth that his students call him a 'swell fellow'."